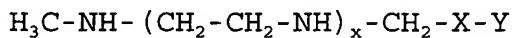


Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A composition of matter having a formula represented by



wherein x is an integer of about 8 to about 1,200, X is a linker, and Y is a residue of a sterol comprising a 3-ol group.

Claim 2 (original): The composition of matter of claim 1 wherein x is about 581.

Claim 3 (original): The composition of matter of claim 1 wherein X is -O-CO-.

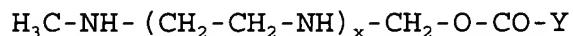
Claim 4 (original): The composition of matter of claim 1 wherein Y is a cholesterol residue.

Claim 5 (original): The composition of matter of claim 1 wherein Y is a member selected from the group consisting of

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residues of cholesterol, cholestanol, coprosterol, epicholestanol, epicholesterol, ergostanol, α -ergostenol, β -ergostenol, γ -ergostenol, ergosterol, 22,23-dihydroergosterol, stigmasterol, stigmastanol, (3β) -7-dehydrocholesterol, desmosterol, allocholesterol, 24-hydroxycholesterol, 25-hydroxycholesterol, campesterol, α_1 -sitosterol, β -sitosterol, γ -sitosterol, lumisterol, pyrocalciferol, isopyrocalciferol, azacosterol, neoergosterol, and dehydroergosterol.

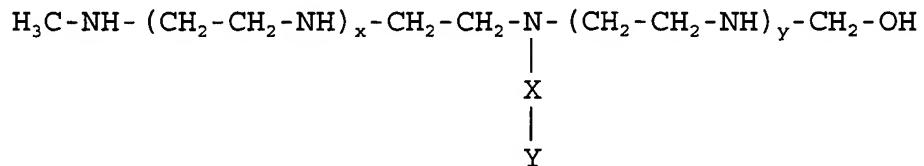
Claim 6 (original): A composition of matter having a formula represented by



wherein x is an integer of about 8 to about 1,200, and Y is a cholesterol residue.

Claim 7 (original): The composition of matter of claim 6 wherein x is about 581.

Claim 8 (original): A composition of matter having a formula represented by



wherein x is an integer of about 0 to about 1,200, y is an integer of about 0 to about 1,200, with the proviso that x + y is about 8 to about 1,200, X is a linker, and Y is a residue of a sterol comprising a 3-ol group.

Claim 9 (original): The composition of matter of claim 8 wherein x + y is about 581.

Claim 10 (original): The composition of matter of claim 8 wherein X is -CO-.

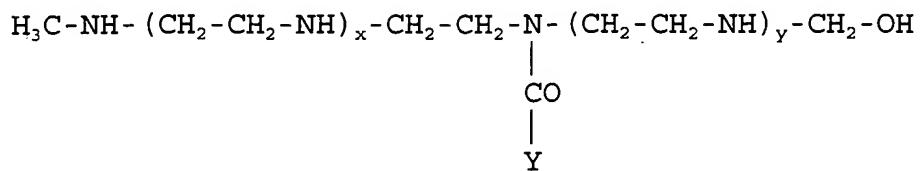
Claim 11 (original): The composition of matter of claim 8 wherein Y is a cholesterol residue.

Claim 12 (original): The composition of matter of claim 8 wherein Y is a member selected from the group consisting of residues of cholesterol, cholestanol, coprosterol, epicholestanol, epicholesterol, ergostanol, α -ergostenol, β -ergostenol, γ -ergostenol, ergosterol, 22,23-dihydroergosterol, stigmasterol, stigmastanol, (3β) -7-dehydrocholesterol, desmosterol, allocholesterol, 24-hydroxycholesterol, 25-hydroxycholesterol, campesterol, α_1 -sitosterol, β -sitosterol, γ -sitosterol, lumisterol,

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pyrocalciferol, isopyrocalciferol, azacosterol, neoergosterol, and dehydroergosterol.

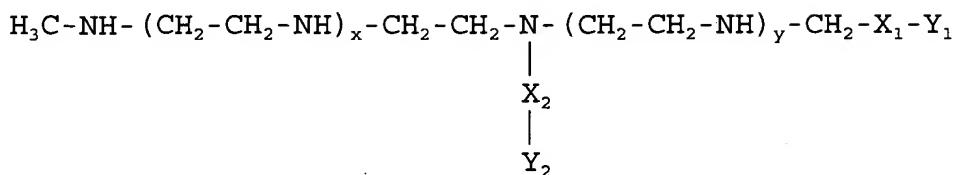
Claim 13 (original): A composition of matter having a formula represented by



wherein x is an integer of about 0 to about 1,200, y is an integer of about 0 to about 1,200, with the proviso that x + y is about 8 to about 1,200, and Y is a cholesterol residue.

Claim 14 (original): The composition of matter of claim 13 wherein x + y is about 581.

Claim 15 (original): A composition of matter having a formula represented by



wherein x is an integer of about 0 to about 1,200, y is an integer of about 0 to about 1,200, with the proviso that x + y is about 8 to about 1,200, X₁ and X₂ are linkers, and Y₁ and Y₂ are residues of a sterol comprising a 3-ol group.

Claim 16 (original): The composition of matter of claim 15 wherein x + y is about 581.

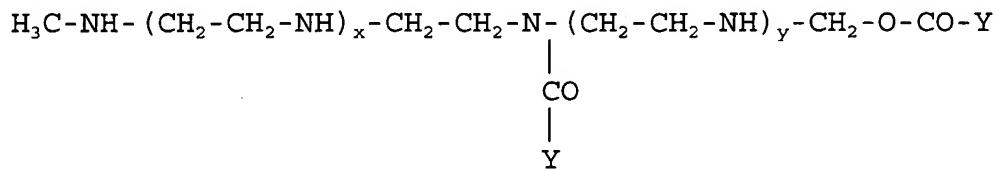
Claim 17 (original): The composition of matter of claim 15 wherein X₁ is -O-CO- and X₂ is -CO-.

Claim 18 (original): The composition of matter of claim 15 wherein Y₁ and Y₂ are cholesterol residues.

Claim 19 (original): The composition of matter of claim 15 wherein Y₁ and Y₂ are members independently selected from the group consisting of residues of cholesterol, cholestanol, coprostanol, epicholestanol, epicholesterol, ergostanol, α -ergostenol, β -

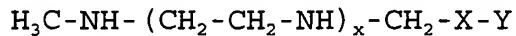
ergostenol, γ -ergostenol, ergosterol, 22,23-dihydroergosterol, stigmasterol, stigmastanol, (3β) -7-dehydrocholesterol, desmosterol, allocholesterol, 24-hydroxycholesterol, 25-hydroxycholesterol, campesterol, α_1 -sitosterol, β -sitosterol, γ -sitosterol, lumisterol, pyrocalciferol, isopyrocalciferol, azacosterol, neoergosterol, and dehydroergosterol.

Claim 20 (original): A composition of matter having a formula represented by



wherein x is an integer of about 0 to about 1,200, y is an integer of about 0 to about 1,200, with the proviso that x + y is about 8 to about 1,200, and Y is a cholesterol residue.

Claim 21 (original): A complex comprising a mixture of a nucleic acid and a composition of matter having a formula represented by



wherein x is an integer of about 8 to about 1,200, X is a linker, and Y is a residue of a sterol comprising a 3-ol group.

Claim 22 (original): The complex of claim 21 wherein x is about 581.

Claim 23 (original): The complex of claim 21 wherein X is -O-CO-.

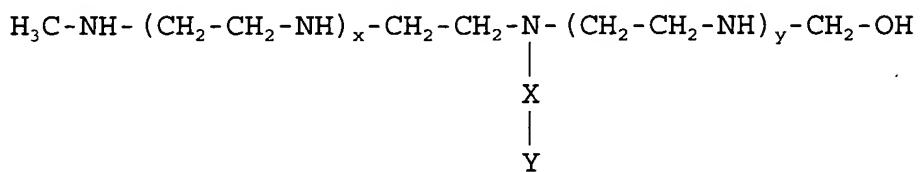
Claim 24 (original): The complex of claim 21 wherein Y is a cholesterol residue.

Claim 25 (original): The complex of claim 21 wherein X is -O-CO- and Y is a cholesterol residue.

Claim 26 (original): The complex of claim 21 wherein Y is a member selected from the group consisting of residues of cholesterol, cholestanol, coprosterol, epicholestanol, epicholesterol, ergostanol, α -ergostenol, β -ergostenol, γ -ergostenol, ergosterol, 22,23-dihydroergosterol, stigmasterol, stigmastanol, (3β) -7-dehydrocholesterol, desmosterol, allocholesterol, 24-hydroxycholesterol, 25-hydroxycholesterol, campesterol, α_1 -sitosterol, β -sitosterol, γ -sitosterol, lumisterol, pyrocalciferol, isopyrocalciferol, azacosterol, neoergosterol, and dehydroergosterol.

Claim 27 (original): The complex of claim 21 wherein the nucleic acid comprises a plasmid.

Claim 28 (original): A complex comprising a mixture of a nucleic acid and a composition of matter having a formula represented by:



wherein x is an integer of about 0 to about 1,200, y is an integer of about 0 to about 1,200, with the proviso that x + y is about 8 to about 1,200, X is a linker, and Y is a residue of a sterol comprising a 3-ol group.

Claim 29 (original): The complex of claim 28 wherein x + y is about 581.

Claim 30 (original): The complex of claim 28 wherein X is -CO-.

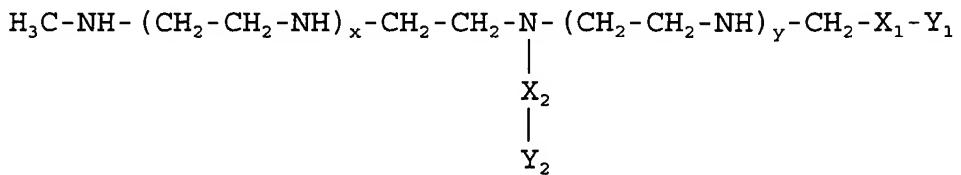
Claim 31 (original): The complex of claim 28 wherein Y is a cholesterol residue.

Claim 32 (original): The complex of claim 28 wherein X is -CO- and Y is a cholesterol residue.

Claim 33 (original): The complex of claim 28 wherein Y is a member selected from the group consisting of residues of cholesterol, cholestanol, coprosterol, epicholestanol, epicholesterol, ergostanol, α -ergostenol, β -ergostenol, γ -ergostenol, ergosterol, 22,23-dihydroergosterol, stigmasterol, stigmastanol, (3β) -7-dehydrocholesterol, desmosterol, allocholesterol, 24-hydroxycholesterol, 25-hydroxycholesterol, campesterol, α_1 -sitosterol, β -sitosterol, γ -sitosterol, lumisterol, pyrocalciferol, isopyrocalciferol, azacosterol, neoergosterol, and dehydroergosterol.

Claim 34 (original): The complex of claim 28 wherein the nucleic acid comprises a plasmid.

Claim 34 (original): A complex comprising a mixture of a nucleic acid and a composition of matter having a formula represented by



wherein x is an integer of about 0 to about 1,200, y is an integer of about 0 to about 1,200, with the proviso that x + y is about 8 to about 1,200, X₁ and X₂ are linkers, and Y₁ and Y₂ are residues of a sterol comprising a 3-ol group.

Claim 35 (original): The complex of claim 34 wherein x + y is about 581.

Claim 36 (original): The complex of claim 34 wherein X₁ is -O-CO- and X₂ is -CO-.

Claim 37 (original): The complex of claim 34 wherein Y₁ and Y₂ are cholesterol residues.

Claim 38 (original): The complex of claim 34 wherein X₁ is -O-CO-, X₂ is -CO-, and Y₁ and Y₂ are cholesterol residues.

Claim 39 (original): The complex of claim 34 wherein Y₁ and Y₂ are members independently selected from the group consisting of residues of cholesterol, cholestanol, coprosterol, epicholestanol, epicholesterol, ergostanol, α -ergostenol, β -ergostenol, γ -ergostenol, ergosterol, 22,23-dihydroergosterol, stigmasterol, stigmastanol, (3 β)-7-dehydrocholesterol, desmosterol,

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allocholesterol, 24-hydroxycholesterol, 25-hydroxycholesterol,
campesterol, α_1 -sitosterol, β -sitosterol, γ -sitosterol, lumisterol,
pyrocalciferol, isopyrocalciferol, azacosterol, neoergosterol, and
dehydroergosterol.

Claim 40 (original): The complex of claim 34 wherein the
nucleic acid comprises a plasmid.

Claims 41-52 (canceled)